

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL TORONTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4627

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS TORONTO 2218

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, CA

SUBJECT: ONTARIO FACES POWER SHORTAGES, CUTS EXPORTS, BUYS NEW YORK
ELECTRICITY

1. ONTARIO HYDRO, PROVINCIALLY-OWNED ELECTRIC POWER GENERATING COMPANY,

HAS WARNED THAT SUPPLY PROBLEMS WILL CONTINUE UNTIL END OF YEAR AND
HAS ASKED CONSUMER CONSERVATION, PARTICULARLY IN PEAK PERIODS.

2. PROBLEM DEVELOPED BECAUSE OF LOSS OF FOUR 500 MEGAWATT GENERATORS
AT NANTICOKE STATION DUE TO TECHNICAL PROBLEMS NOT EXPECTD TO BE
REPAIRED BEFORE NEW YEARS; LOW WATER LEVELS FOR HYDRO ELECTRIC
GENERATION AND UNUSUALLY HIGH DEMAND DUE TO COLD TERMPERATURES.
HYDRO QUEBEC REDUCED ITS EXPORTS TO ONTARIO BY 350 MEGAWATTS DUE TO
RECORD DEMANDS ON ITS OWN SYSTEM. ONTARION HYDRO HAS CUT ALL EXPORTS
OF POWER AND IS BUYING ELECTRICITY FROM NEW YORK STATE, PARTICULARLY
DURING 4 TO 7 P.M. PEAK. NEW YORK - WHICH SOLD 300 MEGAWATTS DEC. 3 -
AND MICHIGAN BOTH TRYING TO COPE WITH OUR RECORD DEMANDS.

3. VOLTAGE REDUCTIONS OF 3 PERCENT HAVE BEEN INITIATED AND INDUSTRIAL
CUSTOMERS WHO HAVE INTERRUPTIBLE CONTRACTS HAVE HAD POWER CUTS.
PEAK DEMANDS HAVE RUN TO 15,700 MEGAWATTS AND ONTARIO
HYDRO'S OPERATING RESERVE IN FORECASTS HAS FALLEN BELOW THE
NORMALLY REQUIRED MARGING OF 800 MEGAWATTS.
DIGGINS

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Message Attributes

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